(b) and (c) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has carried out extensive surveys to identify the natural pearl oyster beds and also locations for experimental production of artificial pearls in the country. The identified locations are:

Andhra Pradesh — Kakinada, Visakhapatnam,

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Gujarat — Sikka and Okha,

Kerala — Calicut, Vizhinjam,

Lakshadweep Group of Islands,

Tamilnadu — Tuticorin & Mandapam

(d) and (e) The CMFRI has established a hatchery for pearl oyster seed production at Tuticorin and has taken up programmes on replenishment of pearl oyster stocks in natural bed and quality improvement in cultured pearls.

Coastal Wealth

4905. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any special proposals from coastal States to develop their coastal wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether the Department of Ocean Development have identified pearl fetching areas in our coastal centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are under implementation in the coastal States for optimally exploiting the fishery resources within the coastal, as well as off-shore waters of the country:— (i) Development of Marine Fisheries (ii) Fishing Harbours at major and minor ports (iii) Integrated Coastal Aquaculture (iv) National Welfare of Fishermen.

Under the Scheme of Marine Fisheries, there are two components viz (I) Motorisation of Traditional Craft and (ii) Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metre overall length. The scheme aims at technological upgradation of

traditional fishing sector and development of small mechanized fishing sector. About 33000 traditional fishing crafts have been sanctioned for motorisation so far, and about 18000 small melchanised fishing vessels below 20 metre overall length on an average per annum are provided with reimbursement benefits under the scheme.

(c) The Department of Ocean Development have stated that they have no programme for identifying pearl fetching areas in the coastal Centres.

Central Scheme for Development of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee

4906. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Gujarat for revival of centrally sponsored scheme for development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMC);

(b) if so, the consideration made by Government; and

(c) the time frame within which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S̱ B P B K̲ SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A decision on the proposal will be taken after necessary consultations and examination are completed.

Establishment of Nuclear Power Plant in West Bengal

4907. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to establish a Nuclear Power Plant in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.